

By: Shapiro

S.B. No. 156

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a competitive grant program to fund nurse-family partnership programs in certain communities in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter M to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER M. NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 531.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Competitive grant program" means the nurse-family partnership competitive grant program established under this subchapter.

(2) "Partnership program" means a nurse-family partnership program.

Sec. 531.452. ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a nurse-family partnership competitive grant program through which the commission will award grants for the implementation of nurse-family partnership programs, or the expansion of existing programs, and for the operation of those programs for a period of not less than two years.

(b) The commission shall award grants under the program to applicants, including the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas, in a manner that ensures that the partnership programs collectively:

(1) operate in at least 11 communities; and

1           (2) provide program services to at least 2,000  
2 families.

3           Sec. 531.453. PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. A  
4 partnership program funded through a grant awarded under this  
5 subchapter must:

6           (1) be based strictly on the program model developed  
7 by the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office;

8           (2) require that registered nurses regularly visit the  
9 homes of low-income, first-time mothers participating in the  
10 program to provide services designed to:

11                   (A) improve pregnancy outcomes;

12                   (B) improve child health and development;

13                   (C) improve family economic self-sufficiency and  
14 stability; and

15                   (D) reduce the incidence of child abuse and  
16 neglect; and

17           (3) require that the regular nurse visits described by  
18 Subdivision (2) begin not later than a mother's 28th week of  
19 gestation and end when her child reaches two years of age.

20           Sec. 531.454. APPLICATION. (a) A public or private entity,  
21 including a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of  
22 this state, may apply for a grant under this subchapter.

23           (b) To apply for a grant, an applicant must submit a written  
24 application to the commission on a form prescribed by the  
25 commission.

26           (c) The application prescribed by the commission must:

27                   (1) require the applicant to provide data on the number

1 of low-income, first-time mothers residing in the community in  
2 which the applicant proposes to operate or expand a partnership  
3 program and provide a description of existing services available to  
4 those mothers;

5 (2) describe the ongoing monitoring and evaluation  
6 process to which a grant recipient is subject, including the  
7 recipient's obligation to collect and provide information  
8 requested by the commission under Section 531.459(c); and

9 (3) require the applicant to provide other relevant  
10 information as determined by the commission.

11 Sec. 531.455. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING  
12 GRANTS. In addition to the factors described by Sections  
13 531.452(b) and 531.453, in determining whether to award a grant to  
14 an applicant under this subchapter, the commission shall consider:

15 (1) the demonstrated need for a partnership program in  
16 the community in which the applicant proposes to operate or expand  
17 the program, which may be determined by considering the poverty  
18 rate, the crime rate, the number of births to Medicaid recipients,  
19 and the incidence of child abuse and neglect during a prescribed  
20 period in the community;

21 (2) the applicant's ability to participate in ongoing  
22 monitoring and performance evaluations, including the applicant's  
23 ability to collect and provide information requested by the  
24 commission under Section 531.459(c);

25 (3) the applicant's ability to adhere to the  
26 partnership program standards adopted under Section 531.456;

27 (4) the applicant's ability to develop broad-based

1 community support for implementing or expanding a partnership  
2 program, as applicable; and

3 (5) the applicant's history of developing and  
4 sustaining innovative, high-quality programs that meet the needs of  
5 families and communities.

6 Sec. 531.456. PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM STANDARDS. The executive  
7 commissioner, with the assistance of the Nurse-Family Partnership  
8 National Service Office, shall adopt standards for the partnership  
9 programs funded under this subchapter. The standards must be  
10 consistent with Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office  
11 program model standards and guidelines that were developed in  
12 multiple, randomized clinical trials and have been tested and  
13 replicated in multiple communities.

14 Sec. 531.457. USE OF AWARDED GRANT FUNDS. The grant funds  
15 awarded under this subchapter may be used only to cover costs  
16 related to implementing or expanding and operating a partnership  
17 program, including costs related to:

18 (1) administering the program;

19 (2) training and managing registered nurses who  
20 participate in the program;

21 (3) paying the salaries and expenses of registered  
22 nurses who participate in the program;

23 (4) paying for facilities and equipment for the  
24 program; and

25 (5) paying fees to the Nurse-Family Partnership  
26 National Service Office for services that office provides to assist  
27 a grant recipient in implementing, expanding, or operating the

1 program.

2 Sec. 531.458. STATE NURSE CONSULTANT. Using money  
3 appropriated for the competitive grant program, the commission may  
4 contract with a state nurse consultant to assist grant recipients  
5 with implementing or expanding and operating the partnership  
6 programs in the applicable communities.

7 Sec. 531.459. PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION; ANNUAL  
8 COMMITTEE REPORTS. (a) The commission, with the assistance of the  
9 Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, shall:

10 (1) adopt performance indicators that are designed to  
11 measure a grant recipient's performance with respect to the  
12 partnership program standards adopted by the commission under  
13 Section 531.456;

14 (2) use the performance indicators to continuously  
15 monitor and formally evaluate on an annual basis the performance of  
16 each grant recipient; and

17 (3) prepare and submit an annual report, not later  
18 than December 1 of each year, to the Senate Health and Human  
19 Services Committee, or its successor, and the House Human Services  
20 Committee, or its successor, regarding the performance of each  
21 grant recipient during the preceding state fiscal year with respect  
22 to providing partnership program services.

23 (b) The report required under Subsection (a)(3) must  
24 include:

25 (1) the number of low-income, first-time mothers to  
26 whom each grant recipient provided partnership program services;

27 (2) the extent to which each grant recipient made

1 regular visits to mothers during the period described by Section  
2 531.453(3); and

3 (3) the extent to which each grant recipient adhered  
4 to the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office's program  
5 model, including the extent to which registered nurses:

6 (A) conducted home visitations comparable in  
7 frequency, duration, and contact to those delivered in Nurse-Family  
8 Partnership National Service Office clinical trials; and

9 (B) assessed the health and well-being of mothers  
10 and children participating in the partnership programs in  
11 accordance with common indicators of maternal, child, and family  
12 health.

13 (c) On request, each grant recipient shall timely collect  
14 and provide data and any other information required by the  
15 commission to prepare the report required by this section.

16 Sec. 531.460. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The  
17 commission shall actively seek and apply for any available federal  
18 funds, including federal Medicaid and Temporary Aid for Needy  
19 Family (TANF) funds, to assist in financing the competitive grant  
20 program established under this subchapter.

21 (b) The commission may use appropriated funds and may accept  
22 gifts, donations, and grants of money from the federal government,  
23 local governments, private corporations, or other persons to assist  
24 in financing the competitive grant program.

25 Sec. 531.461. RULES. The executive commissioner shall  
26 adopt rules as necessary to administer the competitive grant  
27 program.

1           SECTION 2. (a) As required by Section 531.460(a),  
2 Government Code, as added by this Act, the Health and Human Services  
3 Commission shall, as soon as practicable, apply for any available  
4 federal funds to assist in financing the nurse-family partnership  
5 competitive grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 531,  
6 Government Code, as added by this Act.

7           (b) Not later than March 1, 2008, the Health and Human  
8 Services Commission shall establish the nurse-family partnership  
9 competitive grant program required by Subchapter M, Chapter 531,  
10 Government Code, as added by this Act.

11           (c) Not later than December 1, 2008, the Health and Human  
12 Services Commission shall submit the initial annual report required  
13 by Section 531.459(a)(3), Government Code, as added by this Act.

14           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.